



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

vested in it, its success would have been very doubtful, partly because of the difficulty of providing by a central government for the needs of a population so widely scattered, and with such varied requirements, and partly because of the impossibility of meeting those needs justly.

Local responsibility and local self-government have been the safeguard of our country's welfare. Men will submit to what they deem inconvenience, or even interference with their rights, from a government close to them, and which they have themselves established, but they will not submit willingly to what they deem unnecessary invasion of right by laws passed by legislatures situated thousands of miles away.

If the powers of government now exercised by the States in various portions of this country, should in large part be taken from them and vested in the Government at Washington, discontent with the growing interference with private affairs by public laws would surely increase and ultimately the Government itself would be in danger.

Thomas Raeburn White.

Philadelphia, Pa.

CONSCRIPTION SYSTEM IN JAPAN. By Y. Takata. With a preface by Gotaro Ogawa, D. C. L., Professor of Finance in the University of Kyoto. Being one of the Publications of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Oxford University Press, New York City, 1921, pp. xiii, 245.

*Conscription System in Japan* is a volume recently received whose title challenges our attention. Interest is further aroused by the high character of the introductions which accompany it. It is published by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. It is further listed as the first of a series of Japanese Monographs edited by Baron Y. Sakatani, who ranks among the most scholarly and thoughtful of the liberal leaders in modern Japan. It opens with an introductory note by Dr. John Bates Clark, of Columbia University, the director of the Division of Economics and History of the Carnegie Foundation. The note, written in September 1920, is interesting as an expression of views generally held two years ago and which centered on two outstanding convictions—the birth of a new world which, as Dr. Clark states it, “evolved suddenly out of a world which we knew,” and secondly, the menace of Bolshevism which in 1920 seemed to be a “portentous fact.” Since then we have grown rather sceptical about the new world, and for the “grave determination of Russian communists to extend their system by crude force from State to State” we find substituted the amiability of the mild-mannered men in high hats and frock coats who are now attending the Genoa Conference. But the singular thing about the prefatory note is the absence of any reference whatever to the work which it introduces or the character of the investigation.

Following the introductory note is the preface written by Dr. Gotaro Ogawa, of the University of Kyoto, who (to quote the quaint English of “WHO’S WHO IN JAPAN”) “at present is taking in charge of Chief of the

Kyoto Branch of the Economical Investigation Society which belongs to the Japanese Branch of the Carnegie Peace Foundational Economical Department." On the title page, Dr. Ogawa is named as the author of the work but this honor he expressly repudiates in the preface. "I was glad to give some suggestions," he says, "about the collection of material and the construction of arguments, but have done little toward the completion of this laborious work. It is the result of the author's untiring efforts"—the author, being Mr. Y. Takata. Having thus completed the introductions, we turn with heightened interest to the essay itself. Mr. Takata has limited himself to a purely statistical study of the effects of conscription in Japan. He has therefore of necessity excluded many aspects of his subject—moral and political—and has concentrated on certain economic aspects of the problem.

Before noting the method by which Mr. Takata marshalls his statistics and reaches his conclusions reference should be made to the first six chapters dealing with the historical development of Japan's system of conscription. In this survey Mr. Takata has rigidly adhered to those modern conventions of scholarship which we associate with German universities and has studiously avoided any comments or observations which might add life or color to his narrative. It is difficult for one to realize as one reads those chapters, that buried in the laws he cites and the statistical tables he submits is the romantic story of Japan's transformation from a highly organized feudal State into a modern military power. The hero of that story is Yamagata Aritomo, better known to our generation as Prince Yamagata, whose restless life closed only a few weeks ago. Born in 1838, the son of a feudal soldier of the Choshu Clan, he lived to see the Island Empire, which he so devotedly loved and so patriotically served, humble the pride of China, beat back the advance of Russia and emerge with added prestige from the World War. Few Japanese would hesitate to credit these achievements to the efficient military machine, which Prince Yamagata created and jealously guarded. Such success brought him not only honor, but vast power. As senior Field Marshal, as Supreme Military Counsellor, as President of the Privy Council, as Elder Statesman and holder of the coveted Grand Order of the Chrysanthemum, he dominated absolutely the policies of his country for a generation. Two short references in Mr. Takata's survey are deemed sufficient mention of this outstanding figure in modern oriental life. On page 7 he says, "It was Omura, who laid the foundation of the conscription law, upon which Aritomo Yamagata constructed the system in detail." Again, on page 17, "In August (1870) Aritomo Yamagata, (now Prince Yamagata) returned from his inspection tour through Europe. . . . He prevailed upon them (i. e., the Government) to adopt the French system." Such economy and reserve may be scientific scholarship. It is not history.

We turn now to Mr. Takata's study, which includes separate chapters summarizing the effects of conscription on population, on the development of towns, on employment, on labor, on productivity, and on consumption. It is impracticable within the limits of this review even to touch upon the extensive data submitted by Mr. Takata or to test the conclusions which

he has reached. We confess, however, to a peculiar interest in the chapter, which deals with the effect of conscription on population and perhaps a brief reference to this chapter will serve to illustrate Mr. Takata's methods and the limited value of his conclusions.

The recent extraordinary increase in the population of Japan, presents one of the most interesting developments of our generation. Perhaps we can state the nature of this increase by means of a few figures. Careful investigations indicate quite accurately that in 1721, the population of Japan was a little over 26,000,000. In 1846, just prior to the opening of the ports and resultant contact with western civilization, the population was estimated as barely 27,000,000. Hence, it appears that for at least one hundred and twenty-five years the population of Japan remained practically stationary. Now note the change: In 1871 the population had risen to 33,000,000; in 1881 to 36,000,000; in 1891 to 40,000,000 and in 1921 to 57,000,000. What were the factors—social and economic—which retarded the growth of population during the centuries of seclusion and have so greatly accelerated it during the past fifty years of contact with the West? Over a quarter of a century ago this problem challenged the attention of Garrett Droppers, then a brilliant young teacher in Tokyo, and recently American Minister to Greece. In a paper read before the Asiatic Society of Japan he sought to explain the causes of this remarkable contrast. Among the social factors noted by Mr. Droppers conscription plays no part. Has it done so in these intervening years as the system of conscription in Japan has been enlarged and elaborated? Answering this question Mr. Takata offers a number of carefully prepared statistical tables. While obviously the results of painstaking labor, to the casual reader the statistics are inadequate and inconclusive. Evidently they produced this effect on Mr. Takata, for in summarizing the results he says: "We have seen that the system of conscription gives rise to the two contrary effects. It causes a decrease of birth rate on one hand, while it causes an increase of birth rate and decrease of death rate on the other. We cannot say definitely which of these two effects has the tendency to predominate over the other because we cannot determine the definite quantity of the latter. At any rate we can say that the effects of the system upon these several rates are not very great." This impotent conclusion we interpret to mean that statistics, however conscientiously gathered, standing alone, tell us nothing. They are at best merely a small portion of the raw material of the thinker. In this aspect Mr. Takata's volume has some value. But the story of the effects of conscription on Japan in its larger significance is still to be written.

*Roland S. Morris.*

*Formerly Ambassador to Japan.*

CONFLICT OF LAWS. By John P. Tiernan, Professor of Law, University of Notre Dame. Callaghan & Company, Chicago, 1921, pp. vi, 122.

It is to be gathered from the preface that this book is intended for use in instruction in law schools, where the case method of study is not used.